



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a federal grand jury returned an Indictment against an Ecuadoran national for his role in transporting illegal aliens from New Jersey to Wisconsin to obtain fraudulent Wisconsin I.D.s. The Indictment charges Fernando Adame, 43, of Ecuador with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to unlawfully use fraudulent identification documents and two counts of transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Adame, who is an illegal alien, was originally charged in a federal criminal complaint after being arrested by South Milwaukee police officers on February 22, 2006. In the criminal complaint and at a bond hearing, federal officials alleged that in return for payment, Adame had transported illegal aliens, who had come from New Jersey, to a Wisconsin Department of Transportation site for the purpose of obtaining either a Wisconsin Driver's License or State Identification card. Because the illegal aliens were not Wisconsin residents, they were not eligible to obtain Wisconsin I.D.s. At the time of his arrest, Adame had in his possession blank Wisconsin license application forms as well as completed forms showing that licenses or identification cards had been issued. Adame had altered documents purporting to show that various aliens were Wisconsin residents.

If convicted of these offenses, Adame faces a sentence of up to five years on count one and 10 years on counts two and three.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carol L. Kraft.

The public is cautioned that an Indictment is a formal method for issuing charges and does not constitute evidence of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time as guilt is established by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The public is further cautioned that an Indictment alleges violations of law only by those charged in the Indictment. An Indictment does not allege wrongdoing, either explicitly or implicitly, against any other person.

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